

# Army Acquisition Reform Newsletter



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Questions? Contact Teresa Wright-Johnson, (703) 681-7575, [wrightt@sarda.army.mil](mailto:wrightt@sarda.army.mil)

## ***TRADOC Processes "Paperless" Invoices for Government Purchase Card Program***

Department of the Army selected Fort Rucker as the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) test site for implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to process International Merchants Purchase Authorization Card (I.M.P.A.C.) invoice payments. Fort Rucker's Directorate of Contracting (DOC), Resource Management Directorate, and Information Management Directorate, led by Ms. Dianne Brandon, I.M.P.A.C. Agency Program Coordinator, formed a working team to process EDI transactions through the Defense Electronic Business Exchange in the Standard Finance System (STANFINS) and the Centrally Automated Pay Disbursing System (CAPS) at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Orlando, Florida. Representatives from the Department of the Army Purchase Card Program Management Office, U.S. Bank, and TRADOC Directorate for Acquisition and Resource Management were on site to provide assistance during the initial implementation.

The EDI system is designed to allow cardholders and billing officials 24-hour, 7 days-a-week access to purchase card transactions, billing statements, and monthly invoices via a secure site on the Internet. Cardholder officials can view billing statements, approve/dispute purchases and certify invoices. The EDI system allows billing officials to affix an electronic certification and transmit invoices through the banking system to the appropriate DFAS for payment. Invoice payments to the bank will average 2-3 days after approval/certification.

Fort Rucker began processing payments for purchase card transactions through EDI in December, 1999. This represents the first successful certification and payment of "paperless" invoices within the Department of Defense for the government purchase card program. The new electronic payment process allows services to further reduce their billing costs and significantly increase bank rebates.

The point of contact for this article is Mrs. Elaine Pearson, TRADOC I.M.P.A.C. Agency Program Manager, (757) 727-2988 or DSN 680-2988, E-mail [pearsona@monroe.army.mil](mailto:pearsona@monroe.army.mil).